WILLIAMS JESSIE M 01/21/81 103351 PRINTER: LI
79 GEORGETOWN 1471

CONFIDENTIAL

EXCISE
2123
E
B1/ED

CONFIDENTIAL
PAGE 01 GEORGE 01471 061117Z
ACTION ARA-15
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 L-03 H-01 SY-05 FBIE-00 OCS-06
CA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /062 W
093206 070335Z /73

R 031815Z APR 79
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9344
INFO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 2/26/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

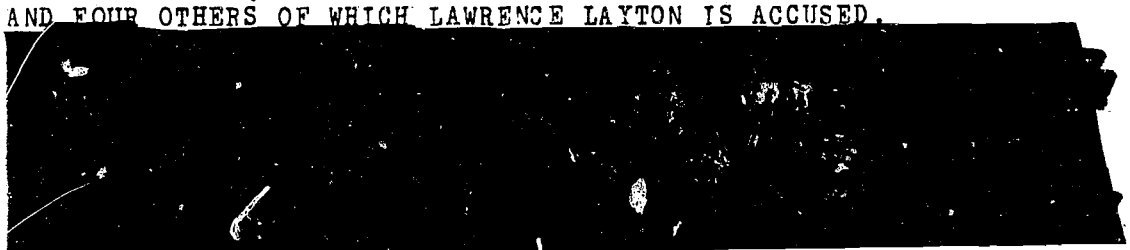
C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1471
CARACAS FOR LEGATT
PASS JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOR JIM HERGEN
E.O. 12065: GDS 4/3/85(DWYER, RICHARD A.) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, PINR, GY
SUBJ: COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE JONESTOWN TRAGEDY
REF: GEORGETOWN 0232

1. (UNC) APPEAL COURT JUDGE VICTOR CRANE HAS BEEN APPOINTED THE SOLE COMMISSIONER TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY INTO THE JONESTOWN TRAGEDY, ACCORDING TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION ON MARCH 31, 1979. THE GOVERNMENT HAD ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR THE COMMISSION ON JANUARY 16, 1979.

2. (UNC) THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND THE DATE FOR ITS COMMENCEMENT HAVE NOT BEEN SET, HOWEVER, THE PRESS RELEASE REPORTS THAT "THE COMMISSION WILL...HAVE... TO PROCEED IN SUCH A MANNER AS NOT TO PREJUDICE THE RIGHT TO A

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL
PAGE 02 GEORGE 01471 061117Z

FAIR TRIAL OF PERSONS CHARGED WITH CERTAIN CRIMINAL OFFENCES." THE TRIAL OF AMCIT CHARLES BEIKMAN, WHO IS CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF LINDA (SHARON) AMOS AND HER CHILDREN, IS SCHEDULED FOR THE APRIL ASSIZES. A DATE HASNOT YET BEEN SET FOR THE SECOND PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO THE MURDERS OF CONGRESSMAN LEO RYAN AND FOUR OTHERS OF WHICH LAWRENCE LAYTON IS ACCUSED.



B1/ED

4. (UNC) JUDGE VICTOR CRANE, 59, IS A BRITISH-TRAINED BARRISTER WHO WAS ADMITTED TO THE BARS OF GUYANA AND ST. LUCIA IN 1949. FROM 1957 TO 1963 HE WAS CHIEF MAGISTRATE IN NIGERIA.

CONFIDENTIAL / PAGE 1

CONFIDENTIAL

HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE APPEAL COURT IN GUYANA IN 1969 AND WON THE CACIQUE CROWN OF HONOUR, GUYANA'S HIGHEST AWARD FOR SERVICE, IN 1975. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS ONE DAUGHTER.

5. (C) CRANE HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING THOROUGH AND METICULOUS. HE IS PROBABLY CONCERNED, AS MOST GUYANAES LAWYERS OF GOOD REPUTE WOUD BE, TO AVOID ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT PREJUDICE THE OUTCOME OF THE BEIKMAN AND LAYTON MURDER TRIALS. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT CRANE MAY BE EITHER THE NEXT CHANCELLOR OF THE JUDICIARY OR THE NEXT CHIEF JUSTICE. PRESUMABLY HIS CHANCES FOR EITHER APPOINTMENT FROM THE BURNHAM GOVERNMENT COULD BE INFLUENCED BY HIS HANDLING OF THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE INQUIRY.

BURKE

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL